

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method in a computer system for displaying gridlines on a display, comprising:
identifying a first object and a second object previously placed on the display within a band of a selected object as the selected object is dragged into a location on the display;
determining the placement of a first gridline aligned to the first object and a second gridline aligned to the second object; and
displaying at least one of the first gridline and the second gridline in response to the selected object being dragged to the location, wherein the first gridline and the second gridline are operative to assist a user in repositioning the selected object on the display with equal spacing between the first object, the second object, and the selected object.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying, determining, and displaying only take place while the object selected to be dragged is actually being dragged.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the drawing program includes a snap feature that positions the selected object when proximate to the displayed at least one gridline.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first gridline and the second gridline are temporarily stored in a list of dynamic gridlines.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the drawing program adds entries to the list using a "most recently used" algorithm.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the band of the selected object comprises an above band and a side band.

9. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for assisting a drawing program comprising:

moving a selected object on an electronic drawing page;

identifying a first object and a second object, where the first object and the second object were previously placed on the electronic drawing page and the first object is presently located a distance below the second object;

determining a likely destination of the selected object based on the present locations of the first object and the second object, where the likely destination is located the distance below the first object; and

indicating to a user of the drawing program the determined likely destination as the selected object is moved in the electronic drawing page.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein indicating the determined likely destination comprises:

establishing dynamic gridlines for the drawing; and

displaying the dynamic gridlines to the user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a maximum of one horizontal gridline and one vertical gridline are displayed to the user.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the drawing program includes a snap feature that positions the selected object when it is proximate to the displayed gridlines.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein one of the dynamic gridlines is positioned a distance from the first object that is equal to the distance between the first object and the second object.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the dynamic gridlines are temporarily stored in a list of dynamic gridlines.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the drawing program adds entries to the list using a "most recently used" algorithm.

16. (Previously Presented) A method in a computer system to dynamically display a temporary gridline in a drawing, the method comprising:

while a selected object is being dragged in the drawing, searching the drawing for a nearest placed object in bands located above, below, and to each side of the selected object;

determining a location for a temporary gridline relative to the placed object by adding a default avenue distance to the thickness of the placed object; and

displaying the temporary gridline at the determined location when the selected object is dragged within a certain distance of the temporary gridline, where the temporary gridline facilitates a user of the computer system establishing equal spacing between a plurality of objects.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein static gridlines are also displayed in the drawing.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the computer system automatically places the selected object aligned to the displayed temporary gridline when the selected object is near to the displayed gridline.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further including:
determining a location for an along temporary gridline that runs through the center of the placed object and runs parallel to a particular band.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further including:
displaying the along temporary gridline when the selected object is dragged within a certain distance of the along temporary gridline.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the location of the gridline is entered into a list of gridlines.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the entries into the list of gridlines are stored using a most recently used algorithm.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the list of gridlines stores 16 entries.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method in a computer system to dynamically display temporary gridlines in a drawing, the method comprising:
while a selected object is being dragged in the drawing, searching the drawing for a nearest placed object in bands located above, below, and to each side of the selected object;

determining locations for a first across temporary gridline and a second across temporary gridline, where the first across temporary gridline is a distance D from the placed object and the second across temporary gridline is a distance $2D$ from the placed object, and where D is computed by adding the width of the placed object and a default avenue distance;

determining a location for an along temporary gridline that bisects the placed object and that runs parallel to the band being searched;

storing the determined locations in a list for retrieving as the selected object is dragged in the drawing; and

as the selected object is being dragged in the drawing, displaying the second across temporary gridline and the along temporary gridline in the drawing.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the entries into the list are stored using a most recently used algorithm.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the list of gridlines stores 16 entries.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein to be proximately located to the selected object, the closest gridlines are within a display tolerance of the selected object.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the display tolerance is 25 pixels.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein static gridlines are also displayed in the drawing.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the computer system automatically places the selected object aligned to the displayed one of the temporary gridlines when the selected object is near to the displayed gridline.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the entries into the list of gridlines are stored using a most recently used algorithm.

35. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein a maximum of one gridline that is horizontal in the drawing and one gridline that is vertical in the drawing is displayed.

36. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to display gridlines on a display by:

identifying a first object and a second object previously placed in a line on the display within bands above, below, and to the sides of an object selected to be dragged into a location on the display;

determining the placement of a first gridline and a second gridline relative to the identified objects, where the first gridline is perpendicular to the second gridline and the first gridline intersects the second gridline along the line indicating a position for the selected object, where the second object is positioned along the line halfway between the first object and the intersection; and

displaying at least one of the gridlines when the selected object is moved within a predetermined distance of the at least one gridline.

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium cause the computer to identify, determine, and display only while the object selected to be dragged is actually being dragged.

38. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium cause the computer to position the object selected to be dragged when proximate to the displayed gridlines.

39. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium cause the computer to temporarily store the gridlines in a list of dynamic gridlines.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to assist a drawing program by:
moving a selected object on an electronic drawing page;
identifying a first object and a second object, where the first object and the second object were previously placed on the electronic drawing page;
determining a likely destination of the selected object based on the present locations of the first object and the second object, where the likely destination is aligned with the first object and the second object and the likely destination and the second object are separated by the distance; and
indicating to a user of the drawing program the determined likely destination as the selected object is moved in the electronic drawing page.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium cause the computer system to assist the drawing program by:
establishing dynamic gridlines for the drawing; and
displaying the dynamic gridlines to the user.

42. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to establish temporary gridlines in a drawing by:

- while a selected object is being dragged in the drawing, searching the drawing for a nearest placed object in bands located above, below, and to each side of the selected object;
- determining locations for a first across temporary gridline and a second across temporary gridline, where the first across temporary gridline is a distance D from the placed object and the second across temporary gridline is a distance $2D$ from the placed object, and where D is computed by adding the width of the placed object and a default avenue distance;
- determining a location for an along temporary gridline that bisects the placed object and that runs parallel to the band being searched;
- storing the determined locations in a list for retrieving as the selected object is dragged in the drawing; and
- as the selected object is being dragged in the drawing, displaying the second across temporary gridline and the along temporary gridline in the drawing.

43. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium cause the computer to store locations of the gridlines in a list using a most recently used algorithm.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 42 wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium cause the computer to further automatically place the selected object aligned to the displayed one of the temporary gridlines when the selected object is near to the displayed gridline.

46. (Previously Presented) A device for displaying calculated gridlines comprising:

- a memory structured to store locations of objects placed on a drawing;
- a grid calculator that determines an along line for aligning a selected object with a first placed object and an across line for positioning the selected object a predetermined distance from the first placed object, where the predetermined distance is equal to the distance between the first placed object and a second placed object; and
- a display that shows the along line and the across line as the selected object is moved within the display, and further shows the second placed object and the first placed object.

47. (Previously Presented) A computer system that displays gridlines on a display, comprising:

- an object identifier structured to identify objects previously placed on the display within bands above, below, and to the sides of an object selected to be dragged into a location on the display;
- a gridline generator structured to determine the placement of a first gridline and a second gridline relative to the identified objects, where the first gridline is perpendicular to the second gridline and the first gridline and the second gridline intersect at a point that indicates a position for the selected object that is aligned with and uniformly spaced from the identified objects; and
- a display structured to show at least one of the gridlines when the selected object is dragged within a certain distance of the at least one gridline.